D 8950

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE S. B. REGISTRY No. S. B. D. 1950 C Date 3- 2- 39

LETTER FROM HONGKONG POLICE ENQUIRING WHERABOUTS OF ROBERT GEORGE WITCHWILL, 30, BRITISH

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CONFIDENTIAL DRAWER

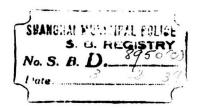
FORM 200 C/R 6. 5000-2-38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

Reference Slip from Headquarters. INSTRUCTIONS: D. C. (Divas.) For disposal (Crime) Furnish data (S. B.) (A. & T. R.) Investigate and report (A. & I. R. (J.) (C.) (Specials) A. C. (Traffic) Note and return Report present status Submit recommendation For further report For opinion (Sikhs) D. C. A. Divn. Reply to writer direct THIS SLIP MUST NOT BE DETACHED. As instructed See me in re: D. " " D. "
Gov. of Gaol Inform Applicant Draft Reply Personal Assistant For necessary action Quartermaster Pay Office Attach file For information Central Registrar Musketry Officer Comment For verification C. C. R. Legal Dept. Note and File Judicial Police Attach to File Dir. Chinese Studies Depot Mounted Branch Noted and Date





No.

NUMBER AND DATE SHOULD BE QUOTED IN REFERENCE TO THIS LETTER.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, HONG KONG.

27th. January 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No.S.B. D8950 (C.) dated January the 13th.1939, and to inform you that we are in receipt of the following information concerning Mr.Robert George Witchell.

Mr.Witchell left Hong Kong per S.S."Empress of Asia" on 25.II.38, booked to Shanghai. He was accompanied by Mrs. Ursula Lloyd, a British Subject, with whom Witchell appears to have been on rather intimate terms. Mrs.Lloyd was booked through to Yokohama, and it appears that Witchell also continued the journey to Yokohama with her. Confirmation has been received here that both Witchell and Mrs.Lloyd sailed from Yokohama for Honolulu on 8.I2.38. per S.S."Chichibu Maru".

It is also known that Witchell is in possession of a valid British Passport and that he obtained a temporary visitor's visa for the U.S.A. on 25.II.38, the date of sailing.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Blow

p.Commissioner of Police.

The Commissioner of Police,

Shanghai.

File No.....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1, Special Branch Sweige.

REPORT

Date January 16, 19 39.

Subject Letter from Hongkong Police enquiring whereabouts of Robert

George Mitchell, 30, British.

Made by D.S.I. Logan Forwarded by

With reference to Special Branch report on the subject of above, a coded telegram was received from the Hongkong Police at 5 p.m. 14/1/39, which was decoded by Mr. Ford, Vice Consul, M.B.M. Consulate-General, and reads as follows:-

"With reference to my letter of December 29th and my telegram of January 11th Witchell known to have left Shanghai for Yokohama and Kobe

C.I.D. Police"

Continued enquiries have up to date failed to ascertain the name of the ship on which Witchell left Shanghai.

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See 64. 3 4 5 5

p. c. Special Branch).

Jenuary 13,

Acting Commissioner of Police, Police Headquarters, H O N G K O H G.

COLUMNIAL

Sir.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 29, 1938 and your cablegram dated January 11, 1939 in regard to the whereabouts of Mr. Robert George Witchell and in reply forward herewith copy of a Police report on the enquiries made.

Any further information will be forwarded on receipt.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your ebedient servant,

Sd. K. M. Bourne.

Commissioner of Police.

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紙報來報電機水部通交

ELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR CABLEGRAMS TEL 17419

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

34 AVENUE EDWARD VII.

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CABLEGRAM

RECEIVED

Via Eastern

Delivery No.

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LEGIRON SHANGHAI -

SHSKT DXFXA AZFIV TSAPF, UPIHZ DKQXW OHYXX, IKSUX

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Please produce this form in connection with any enquiry respecting this telegram

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CONFIDENTIAL

S.1, Special Branch,

January 12, 1939.

Letter from Hongkong Police enquiring whereabouts of Robert George Witchell, 30, British.

With reference to the attached letter, dated December 29, 1938, from the Acting Commissioner of Police, Hongkong, to the Commissioner of Police, Shanghai, enquiring the whereabouts of one Robert George Witchell, age 30, British, employed as a clerk in the Passport Office, Hongkong, who left Hongkong for Shanghai on November 25, 1938 in the s.s. "Empress of Asia" having been granted 12 days' casual leave, enquiries confirmed that Witchell arrived in Shanghai on November 27, 1938, having travelled from Hongkong first class in the s.s. Theorems of Asia". It was learned from the local office of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Co. that Witchell gave as his address, 392 Route Ferguson. Flat 4 (Tel.75836), which is the residence of his aunt. This lady upon being interviewed, stated that she had received a letter from Witchell's mother in Honokong asking for information concerning his whereabouts but denied having seen or heard anything of him in Shanghai. She stated that she had reason to believe that he would avoid meeting her as she was usually severe with him on account of his escapades with women. She made the request that her mame should not be mentioned in any report as she did not wish to be associated with her nephew in any way, especially as her husband is employed as a teacher in the S.M.C. Bluestion Department.

Witchell's wife (registered at H.B.M. Consulate-General)
who resides at Apt. 5, 377 Avenue du Rei Albert, when interview
ed expressed surprise upon learning that her husband had come
to Shanghai and stated that she was unable to give any information that would assist in tracing his whereabouts. She stated
that she was living apart from him in consequence of his habit
of consorting with other women. She was aware that he was
heavily in dobt in Hongkong, but had regularly received her
menthly allowance of MK.5150.00 per month up to the end of

October. The November and December, 1938 and January 1939 allowances have not been received. In this connection it is noteworthy that on November 23, 1938, Mrs. Witchell addressed an urgent telegram to her husband threatening to take legal proceedings against him should he fail to remit the overdue allowances. As he left Hongkong on November 25, 1938 it would appear that his departure may have had some connection with the receipt of the telegram mentioned. Besides the telegram, Mrs. Witchell addressed several pressing letters to her husband which, combined with the telegram and alleged debts, may have made him decide to abscond.

At 4.30 p.m. January 11, 1939, a coded telegram was received from the Hongkong Police, which was decoded by Mr. W.J. McLaughlin, Vice-Consul, H.B.M. Consulate-General, stating that Witchell is suspected of having misappropriated a number of blank Hongkong passports from stock.

It is reasonable to suppose therefore that Witchell contemplated abscording and, having access to the Hongkong blank passports would have experienced little difficulty in forging one or more, doubtless under an assumed name or names.

A photograph of Witchell was obtained from his wife and several copies made. These have been shown to the various hotel and boarding house managers as well as to shipping agents but up to date no useful information concerning Witchell has been obtained. Examination of the various shipping lists show that Witchell has not left Shanghai by ship under his own name but it is quite possible that he may have departed under an assumed name and using one of the misapprepriated passports which, with his special knowledge acquired in course of his employment as passport clerk, he could with little difficulty forge.

Requiries have been made at the various Consulates in Shanghai but the officials were unable to identify the photograph of Witchell. It is likely that if he applied for a visa to enter a

Witchell stated that she knew that her husband would not scruple to accept money from women and quoted an instance where he had accepted money from a woman believed to be the neice of a Swiss Consul in Manchuko with whom he had cohabited in Hongkong.

This lady, whose name is unknown, is stated to be an American citizen. In view of the fact that he is stated to have been heavily in debt it is strange that he should have travelled on the "Empress of Asia" first class instead of tourist class.

Enquiries continuing.

Certified true conv

H.C. Gardley

MEMO.

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thenking on lands Further informations to be forced to when obtained

The Roberton D. C. Special Branch

CONFIDENTIAL

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Branch D. J.1, Special

REPORT

January 12., 39.

Subject Letter from Hongkong Police enquiring whereabouts of Robert

George Vitchell, 30, British.

Made by D.S.I. Logan Forwarded by Olac

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File No.....

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It is reasonable to suppose therefore that Witchell contemplated absconding and, having access to the Hongkong blank passports, wouldhave experienced little

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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REPORT

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File	No

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Date......Station,

Subject

Made by Forwarded by

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July D.C. (Special Branch)

In again

with a ference to my letter & becember 29th, withthe witchell Euspecked to have (hours) misapparpualis a number of blank Hong Kong pass ports from stock. These may still in her/s) (his) possession. Heave assist taking appropriate action within your power. W. J. M. LAUEHLIN. B.G. T. Code. Up. I will make I so the the

(E. E. 3) Dah Cheng Press

JAN39

新報來報電綫水部通交 B. REG. TELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR CABLEGRAMS DEL 2008

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

34 AVENUE EDWARD VII

CABLEGRAN

Delivery No.

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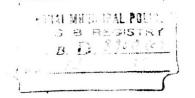
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Please produce this form in connection with any enquiry respecting this telegram

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No. CYSYDYXYDX3654AXX926

NUMBER AND DATE SHOULD
BE QUOTED IN REFERENCE
TO THIS LETTER.

CGP/AHT

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, HONG KONG.

29th December. 1938.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to request your assistance in tracing Mr. Robert George WITCHELL, a British subject, 30 years of ago, who is employed as a clerk in the Passport Office of this department. He left Hong Kong for Shanghai on the 25th November, 1938, in the S.S. "Empress of Asia" having been granted 12 days' casual leave. He has not yet returned to duty, and although he has already long over-stayed his leave I have received no word of explanation from him.

I understand that Mr. Witchell's wife, Mrs. M.K. Witchell, is living in Shanghai at No. 377 du Roi Albert, Appartment 5. It is possible that she may be able to give some information concerning her husband although I understand that they have recently not been on best of terms.

I shall be very grateful for any assistance you can give me in this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Act. Commissioner of Police.

The Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Council,

SHANGHAI.